[English]

Meeting of Internation Decade for Reduction of Natural Disaster

2311. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the National Advisory Council on International Decade for Reduction of Natural Disaster was held in October, 1991 in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the main observations made therein and strategy if any evolved to prevent or avert natural disasters alongwith the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) The meeting of the National Advisory Council on International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction held on the 9th October, 1991 made the following observations:-

(i) In the context of scarce resources in developing countries, there is a need for making disaster mitigation a cornerstone of development planning;

(ii) In developing a strategy for natural disaster reduction and formulation of specific programmes, it is necessary to develop a harmonious approach and national consensus;

(iii) The basic requirement of a successful drought mitigation strategy would relate to provision of drinking water, fodder and employment generation.

(iv) India Meteorological Department should devise methods to be more precise in forecasting the advent of natural disasters;

(v) Greater emphasis on new methods of irrigation is needed to ensure more economical use of water;

(vi) Greater accent should be placed on research about native trees and plant species, which could meet the needs of the local population as to fuel and fodder;

(vii) An effective environmental approach is needed for reducing the occurrence of disasters;

(viii) A review of the impact of the irrigation projects on natural disasters would required to be carried out; and

(ix) Specific initiatives are required for promoting public awareness and thrust of eduction and research should be on identifying biological measures for preventing the occurrence of disasters.

2. The meeting generally took note of the issues submitted for its consideration and recommended follow-up action on the following tasks:-

(a) Formulation of basic parameters for the choice of programmes in the Eighth Five Year Plan,

(b) Identification of Specific measures to be taken up in relation to the gape in the knowledge, strategies and priorities,

(c) Preparation of guidelines for the promotion of Public awareness,

(d) Formulation of Action Plan for 1991-92, and

(e) Formulation of the programmes for the Decade and identification of a procedure for this purpose.

Relationship between India and Soviet Union

2312. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI HARIBHAI M. PATEL:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:
DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any shift in USSR's relations with India after the far reaching changes in that country during the last few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether USSR had voted against India and in favour of Pakistan in the UN General Assembly Resolution on establishment of a Nuclear Free Zone in South Asia;

(d) whether the Government had taken up the matter with that country;

(e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(f) whether this voting is seen as a major shift in Soviet Policy towards India; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a). No, Sir. However, political and economic restructuring in the USSR is proceeding at a very rapid pace. Some difficulties have, therefore, arisen in certain spheres of bilateral cooperation. During External Affairs Minister's official visit to Moscow from 14-18 November 1991 EAM was assured by President Gorbachev and other senior Soviet leaders that the USSR stands by all its commitments to India. This was confirmed by President Yeltsin of the Russian Federation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The External Affairs Minister had raised the matter both with the Soviet Minister for External Relations and the Russian Foreign Minister during his visit to Moscow from 14-18 November 1991 and conveyed to them Government's disappointment at this change of stance. They had given reasons for their change of vote and had stated that this change did not detract in any way from the importance attached by the Soviet Union to Indo-Soviet relations.

(f) No. Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Payments made by DMS to Milk Co-Operative Societies

2313. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL:
SHRI RAM SAGAR:
SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Milk Scheme have